



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this I along with many of you will have had my flu jab. Something to look forward to, I will make sure I get it in my left arm as a few hours later I have a table tennis match that evening in Glasgow, so hopefully no ill effects. Maybe I can win more games for a change. The competition is the first round of the West of Scotland Handicap Cup but I didn't realise having a vaccination that day may be my handicap.

Some people think faith is a bit like the flu jab. That somehow if they believe the right doctrine, or worship a certain way, or do certain things then their faith will somehow act like a shield and protect them from coming to any harm. They will somehow avoid all pain and heartache and life will be one success story leading to another.

But we know life isn't like that. We never know what lies around the corner. The message of Christmas is that God came in the birth of a baby, Jesus. That God was somehow limited to a single finite human life. A life that knew hardship and ease, times of sorrow as well as times of joy, crippling doubt and tremendous courage.

It's the message we all need to hear this Christmas. It's the message we need for a New Year. It's the message we need in a world where old certainties are shaking and there is so much chaos, change and uncertainty. It's the message many of us need as we think of the grief and loss we have experienced in many ways this year.

Emmanuel – God is with us. Not just at Christmas time, but all the days of our lives

Susie, Ally and I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you and your loved ones every blessing this Christmas and a peaceful start to the New Year
Your friend

Stephen

FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the latest issue of our church magazine. It is hoped that it keeps you abreast of what is happening in our church and further afield. There should be something for everyone and if not – send your article in!

The next magazine will be out in March, 2026 and all items for it should reach me at

alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com by Sunday 15th February.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Alastair MacKinnon -Editor



ANGELS

Without Angels, Christmas would have been a very puzzling series of events. Without an Angel, Elizabeth (mother of John) would have had no information as to the name and purpose of her son. Without an angel, Mary would not have known that her pregnancy was special and that her child was the Son of God. She would never have known what to call her child. Without an Angel, Joseph would never have married Mary but, as the Bible says, he would have ‘divorced her secretly’.

Without an Angel there would have been no shepherds visiting the tiny infant. No one would have known that the infant son of Mary was, also “Christ the Lord”. The world would have had no “Joy”, no “Peace”, no “Good News” and no “Glory” since these were words given by the mouths of angels.

Finally, without an Angel, Joseph would not have known of King Herod’s wicked plan to kill the new-born baby, If the family had not fled to Egypt, Jesus might have died with all the other little boys of Bethlehem.

The word “angel” means “messenger” and God has always used messengers to spread the good news. Sometimes angels are heavenly but God also calls us to share the good news of Christmas - “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace - goodwill - to all people.”

SESSION REPORT

During the autumn, there was a significant amount of work carried out around the Church but in particular in the Session House area which has been redecorated and had a new carpet fitted - thanks to the property team (and their extra helpers) for all their time and effort. Please take a minute or two to go and have a look at what has been achieved there and notice the improvements in the Sanctuary and Halls too.

It was good to see the smaller stained glass panels, with their back lighting, installed in the small hall. We are grateful to John and Richard Stephen for their work constructing the frames and to the anonymous donor who contributed to the cost of this.

The Kirk Session was pleased that the visit of Rev Blair Gillon eventually happened on Harvest Sunday. As some of you will recall, Blair was ordained and inducted in the former Kilbarchan East Church in July 1975. His very successful five years of Ministry here will be remembered for bringing a significant number of young people to the Church, ordaining the first lady elder in Kilbarchan, setting up a senior badminton group and a drama club, as well as introducing CH3 to the congregation.

It was good to have an opportunity to speak with Blair and Linda at the soup lunch which raised the excellent total of £1,200 for Mary's Meals – enough to give 60 children a meal every day for a year.

Other charities have also been supported by our generous congregation by

- completing the jigsaw challenge set up by Presbytery to help buy a truck for our missionary partners -Keith and Ida Waddell who are based in Zambia -
- coming to the coffee morning which was raising funds for Water Aid
- contributing to Erskine on Remembrance Sunday
- donating 60 filled shoeboxes and £224 to the Blythswood Appeal

At our last meeting, we agreed to become involved in a no cost fund raising scheme called Easyfundraising – there is a separate article about this later in this magazine.

Once again, we are delighted to see new faces in the congregation at morning worship and to get to know them over tea and coffee after the service. It has been particularly encouraging that some have decided to formally join our Congregation by moving their “lines” to us from their previous Church. We have also become aware of new participants in our live streaming services and although they are from near and far it is good to hear Stephen welcoming them at the start of worship.

Sadly, we extend our sympathy to everyone who is suffering the pain of a bereavement, whether from the death of a family member or friend recently or some time ago.

Please continue to extend a warm and caring welcome to everyone who comes to our Church.

On Sunday 16 November it was good to be able to recognise yet more years of service given to the church. During worship, long service certificates were presented to Colin Campbell who was ordained sixty years ago, to Jim Moffat and Ian Trushell who have been elders for fifty years and to Christine Erwin who was ordained forty years ago along with Marie Alexander who, unfortunately, was not able to be in Church then.

Christine and Helen



KILBARCHAN PARISH CHURCH HILLWALKING CLUB REPORT - NOVEMBER 2025

It's been an active six months for the hillwalking club, with a weekend away and nine day trips.

May's walk was an ascent of Green Lowther, a Graham in the Southern Uplands. Five walkers enjoyed a cool but sunny walk up good paths, then a high altitude tarmac road between the radar stations atop Lowther Hill (a Donald) and Green Lowther. There were lovely views from the summits and we completed the day with coffee and cake in Wanlockhead, the UK's highest village.

June's weekend away was to the Chase the Wild Goose Hostel in Banavie, near Fort William. Five of us climbed various hills including: Meall Dubh (Corbett) near Invergarry, Meall na h-Eilde (Corbett) near Spean Bridge and the Ring of Steall, four Munros in the Mamores range south of Glen Nevis. Between us we totalled 5 new Corbetts and 11 new Munros ticked off on our bagging lists.

June's day trip involved bagging Dugland, a newly designated Donald Top. Six walkers set off from the Sluice on the Water of Deugh, on a warm day with light winds. The route followed windfarm access tracks, through a construction area then past operating turbines. A developing path then led directly to the summit, at 612m. As the wind picked up, the group retreated to the track and found shelter for lunch. The uphill route in reverse was taken on the way back, with rain showers prompting donning of waterproofs. A final 'sting-in-the-tail' was encountered with a lengthy upwards section of the track to test weary legs. The

Sluice and the parked cars were soon spotted thereafter, 5hours 45mins after setting off. An enjoyable walk with good company.

July's Munro walk was swapped to the Mamores from Kinlochleven. Two intrepid walkers set off in a heatwave, but wisely turned back at Loch Eilde Mor to avoid heatstroke.

July's lower hillwalk was in the Pentlands. Six started from Silverburn (on the A702, not the shopping centre) on a very hot day, climbing up South Black Hill, onto Scald Law then East Kip for lunch. The steep descent off West Kip joined a track via Eastside Farm to walk to the main road a kilometre SW of Silverburn, then headed back to the cars.

August's planned Corbett was swapped to the Munros Beinn Heasgarnich and Creag Mhor, from Glen Lochay. Two of us walked for over 10 hours to complete 26km and 1500m of ascent in sweltering heat. The views were fabulous, including an eagle above the first summit.

August's lower level walk was around Beecraigs Country Park, near Linlithgow. It was warm again, but the seven walkers took it judiciously slowly in a big circuit round the country park and then up onto Cockleroy for a lunch stop - it was an interesting new walk for quite a few of the group.

September's walk started from Tyndrum and took in two Corbetts, Beinn Odhar & Beinn Chaorach. Two of us braved the weather to get drenched on the first summit, then navigated through thick mist before the visibility improved and the rain lessened for the second hill. The walk took in parts of the West Highland Way, rough hill paths and a very, very steep pathless section between the two Corbetts, so was good exercise.

In October, five walked the Kelly Cut, above Inverkip. It was a nice dry day, if rather wet underfoot, that finished with coffee and scones in Kilmacom.

November's walk was around Great Cumbrae, a 10-mile circuit. Four walked from the ferry slip in an anti-clockwise direction, with great views over to the Isle of Bute and then to Arran. There were hundreds of greylag geese taking off on the west side of Cumbrae as well as oystercatchers, cormorants, herons, greenfinches, buzzards, gulls and ducks - quite a day for bird watching! Rain showers started as the group entered Millport, prompting a stop for coffee / tea and cake in the cafe at the Arsenal.

Our upcoming plans are:

- 20th Nov 7.30pm: AGM in the church hall, where we will plan our programme for 2026. Please bring your suggestions and requests for walks.
 - 13th Dec: Chatelherault Country Park, meeting at the Steeple at 8am.
- Any new members would be very welcome at the AGM, on December's walk or on any subsequent trip.

Eilidh Henderson, with thanks to Jim Henderson, Jim Martin & David Baillie



A big thank you to everyone who supports the Rainbow Turtle stall when it visits. The church also supports Fairtrade by serving only Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar. The following is an excerpt from the Fairtrade

Foundation to explain what is all about.

Here's just some of what we do:

Fairer prices: We set a Minimum Price, a safety net that protects farmers and workers when market prices fall, but still allows them to earn more when prices rise.

Fairtrade Premium: This sets us apart. Farmers and workers receive the Premium - extra money which they decide how to invest, whether it's for schools, healthcare, or farming improvements.

Fairer working rights: Our Standards include rights at work, safe conditions, and democratic structures in producer cooperatives, ensuring farmers and workers have a stronger voice.

Building sustainable futures: We support smallholder farms to adopt climate-smart practices, improve crop quality, and invest in their long-term resilience.

Ethical business partnerships: We work with brands, retailers, and governments, advising on ethical sourcing, certification, trade policy, and supply chain integrity.

Campaigning for trade justice: Through grassroot campaigner groups and lobbying, we build public support and push for fairer trade policies and practices.

The next stall will be in the spring.

Fairtrade Team





BLYTHSWOOD SHOE BOX APPEAL 2025

I would like to thank everyone who supported the shoe box appeal this year by filling a shoe box or giving a donation.

Together with Kilmacolm Parish Church, myself and friends, a total of 131 boxes were collected with £430 in donations. This is a record amount for me I am pleased to say. The boxes were gratefully redeived at the depot.

Kilbarchan Parish Church donated 60 shoe boxes and £224.

Kilmacolm Parish Church, myself and friends donated 71 shoe boxes and £206.

Rosie Thirde



PROPERTY REPORT

Since the last magazine, the following projects were reported to Session

Completed

- I. Replastering under the side galleries in the church and the internal gable of the large hall.
- II. Redecoration of downstairs room, stairs, vestibule, and upper rooms in Session House.
- III. Manse - fence storm damage repaired.
- IV. Recarpeting of the Session House.
- V. Redecorating under the side galleries and gallery fascias the church.
- VI. Redecoration of the large hall internal gable wall.
- VII. Renewal of one radiator and installation of an additional radiator in the ladies toilet in the halls.
- VIII. Repainting of the ceiling in the ladies toilet.
- IX. Provision and installation of a “smart” TV in the small hall.
- X. Provision and installation of a new notice board on the Steeple gable.
- XI. Stained Glass installation – small hall - CMC Electrical provided an electrical supply to and installed the two panels. The work also included the provision of a new power supply to the TV.

Malcolm MacAskill
Property Convener



MESSY CHURCH

Our first Messy meeting of the new session was on Saturday 20 September and it was lovely to see so many regular families along with several new friends. Our theme was Feeding the Five Thousand along with Fair-Trade. The children thoroughly enjoyed the

various crafts before supporting the Fair-Trade stall which had a wide choice of products on offer.

The Parable of the Sower was our theme on the 18 October when we included Harvest and Thankfulness in the activities. The crafters kept the children busy planting seeds, making bird feeders, leaf art hedgehogs, name that seed and decorating biscuits, a lot of learning fun.

On the 15 November our topic was Advent, looking forward and preparing for a special occasion. June helped the children prepare the decorations for our tree that can be seen at the tree festival in December. Other crafts included beautiful paper angels, a candle, a rainbow and baby in the manger biscuits. We then watched a short film about advent before sharing a meal.

We welcomed more new families to the Messy church, the youngest being just eight weeks old! The Messy family continues to grow and it's so good to see and hear all their lively chatter and happiness. We are indebted to the team for all their time and talents.

Our first Messy meeting of the new session was on Saturday 20 September and it was lovely to see so many regular families along with several new friends. Our theme was Feeding the Five Thousand along with Fair-Trade. The children thoroughly enjoyed the various crafts before supporting the Fair-Trade stall which had a wide choice of products on offer.

The Parable of the Sower was our theme on the 18 October when we included Harvest and Thankfulness in the activities. The crafters kept the children busy planting seeds, making bird feeders, leaf art hedgehogs, name that seed and decorating biscuits, a lot of learning fun.

On the 15 November our topic was Advent, looking forward and preparing for a special occasion. June helped the children prepare the decorations for our tree that can be seen at the tree festival in December. Other crafts included beautiful paper angels, a candle, a rainbow and baby in the manger biscuits. We then watched a short film about advent before sharing a meal.

We welcomed more new families to the Messy church, the youngest being just eight weeks old! The Messy family continues to grow and it's so good to see and hear all their lively chatter and happiness. We are indebted to the team for all their time and talents.

THE KILBARCHAN SINGERS - CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Yes, it's that time of year again. On Monday 8th December the Kilbarchan Singers bring their Christmas Concert to the Church for their annual warm up for the Big Event. Come along for a programme of your favourite carols and other seasonal music.

Joining the Singers will be the Junior Choir with their enthusiastic contribution to the evening's entertainment.

Join in with the singing, then afterwards join the performers for mulled wine and light refreshments in the Hall.

Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 start.

Tickets are still only £10 for grown ups, children are free, and they are available from any Choir member, and at Bobbins. Or as a last resort just bring cash to the door. All are welcome.



GOLDEN OLDIES

For many years now there has been a great concern within the church of the, at first steady, latterly dramatic, fall in membership. In addition, young people generally are not accepting the challenge of the Gospel in any great numbers.

A bleak outlook indeed for many congregations.

Most ministers nowadays look down from the pulpit onto a sea (or a pond) of grey heads.

A cause for depression to set in?

NO!!

These same 'senior worshipers' bring so many positive attributes to the life of any congregation.

They bring to worship and their contacts with other members of God's family, of all ages:-

Long and valuable experience of living the Christian life in a bewilderingly changing world.

A loyalty to their church and minister that is demonstrated in their unfailing attendance at worship, which seems only to be regulated by their own health.

Support of organisations and the wider church financially in considerable proportion to their income.

A quiet yet massively strong faith which rules their lives day by day.

A compassion for those around them who are in any sort of trouble.

And so much more.

Thanks be to God for the 'Golden Oldies.'

22nd October 2025

Dear Friends of Renfrewshire Foodbank,

Thank you very much for your continuous and unwavering support to Renfrewshire Foodbank. Support like yours enables us to relieve the immediate threat of hunger while also providing support to help people out of poverty.

We ended 2024 having provided food parcels to 10,405 people including to 3310 children. I'm sure you will agree that these are heartbreaking figures and not something that should be happening at all.

This past year we have continued to offer a fresh pack containing bread, eggs, fruit and vegetables in addition to our non-perishable parcel of food, toiletries, cleaning products and pet food. Over winter, we were also able to provide a soup pack which included all the ingredients and a recipe to make a pot of lentil soup and over the festive period your support allowed us to offer a voucher for a local butcher. We are planning on offering these again this coming winter.

Through signposting to our Financial Insecurity project, we were able to maximise people's income and put over £271,000 back into the pockets of people within Renfrewshire in 2023-2024.

Thank you so much once again for your kindness. We really couldn't do what we do without your support.

Yours sincerely,



Julie Edmiston
Assistant Manager



FUND-RAISING NEWS

“Art Off the Square” was once again a fantastic success, raising £7500 for church funds. Thanks to Myra and George and all who helped in any way. We have a very busy time ahead in the next few months, hopefully you will all support our events and bring along family and friends.

Christmas Tree Festival. This is a new venture for us and will add to the Christmas festivities in the church. To date there are 18 organisations- most of the church clubs and many village organisations -taking part by decorating a tree. We have been very fortunate to have the festival sponsored by Scottish Leather group. The festival will be in the church and will compliment the beautiful hangings and decorations. This takes place on Friday 5th December from 2-6pm and on Saturday 6th from 10am-3pm, entrance £4 including mulled wine and shortbread. The trees will remain in the church over the festive period.

Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th December from 10am-12noon in the hall to coincide with the Tree Festival. There will be an eco stall, home baking, Christmas crafts and tins and bottles tombola as well as Guess the weight of the cake and a visit from Santa. Donations of home baking, tins and bottles will be gratefully received , either on Friday evening from 7-8pm or on Saturday morning. Entrance is £4, which includes mince pie and shortbread-and entry to the Tree festival.

Burns’ Supper. This will take place on Saturday 31st January in the hall. The caterers will be donating part of each ticket to the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice. Tickets are £25, please order for yourself and friends by speaking to Susan MacAskill, Margaret Gibb, Myra Grant, Jennie Durward or Jenifer Pitchers. Tickets are limited so please order well in advance.

We also hope to have a family Quiz later in February and another ceilidh probably in April so a full programme of events. If you’d like to help at any or all of the events please speak to any of the aforementioned people.



TOTS’ CLUB

We have over 30 children on our register including many babies and toddlers which is lovely. Our Christmas party is on Monday 15th December when Santa will come along to see the children. If you’d like to join us for “goodies” you are very welcome-food served about 10.30. If you think you can help on a Monday morning once every 3-4 weeks please speak to any of the volunteers. We resume after the break on Monday 5th January from 9.15-11.30am

Elizabeth, Fulton, Alison, Ian, Cathy, Christine, Helen, Myra, Margaret, Rosie, Rosemary, Fiona, Malcolm and Jenifer

CHRISTMAS MISCELLANEA

GOLD, FRANKINCENCE AND MYRRH: Said to symbolise respectively kingship on Earth, priesthood, and death, what subsequently happened to the gifts is never mentioned in the scripture, but several tradition have developed. One story has the gold being stolen by the two thieves who were later crucified alongside Jesus. Another tale has it being entrusted to and then misappropriated by Judas.

THREE WISE MEN: In the Monastery of St Paul in Mount Athos, Greece there is a 15th century golden case containing purportedly the gifts of the Magi. It was donated to the monastery in the 15th century by Mara Brankoiv, wife to the Ottoman Sultan Murat II. Apparently they were part of the relics of the Holy Palace of Constantinople and it is claimed they were displayed there since the 4th century AD.

CAROLS: Singing carols in church was instituted on Christmas Eve 1880 in Truro Cathedral in Cornwall. Shortly before, in 1878, the Salvation Army instituted the idea of of playing carols at Christmas using a brass band. It is not clear whether the word carol derives from the French word “carole” or the Latin “carula”, which means a circular dance.

SNOWMEN: The record for the world’s largest snowman – in actual fact a ‘snowwoman’ – was set in 2008 in Maine, USA. She stood 122ft 1inch (37.2 m) high, and was named in honour of Olympia Snowe, a US Senator representing Maine.

STAR OF BETHLEHEM: According to modern translations, the Magi told King Herod that they saw a star ‘at its rising’, which suggests that they observed an astronomical object. Some writers have suggested that the star was actually a comet, such as seen by the Chinese and Korean stargazers in about 5 BC. This object was observed for more than 70 days with no movement recorded, just as the Star of Bethlehem was said to have stood over Jesus’s birthplace.

CHRISTMAS DINNER: While turkey and all the trimmings are the mainstay of a British Christmas dinner, other nations have their own traditions. Czechs tuck into fried carp and potato salad, while Peruvians also eat turkey – but often stuffed with minced beef and peanuts and decorated with slices of fresh pineapple and cherries.

CHRISTMAS TREE: While the Christmas tree’s pagan roots are generally accepted, there still are various legends of Christian origins for the tradition. Such legends often relate to St Boniface who, in the process of converting local pagans in the 8th century, cuts down Thor’s oak and claims a fir tree growing in the oak’s roots to be a new symbol of Jesus Christ. This event is commonly regarded as the beginning of German Christianisation north and east of the old border of the Roman Empire.

MISTLETOE: An old Christian tradition said that mistletoe was once a tree and furnished the wood of the Cross. After the Crucifixion, the plant shrivelled and was dwarfed until it became a parasitic vine. The modern custom where any male and female who meet under hanging mistletoe are obliged to kiss is of Scandinavian origin.

JUNIOR CHURCH

It was good to welcome back our core group of children in September and to hear what they did on their holidays. ☆

This Junior Church term we have been learning about how Christianity spread from Jerusalem after Jesus's death as his disciples and St. Paul travelled to the various countries to share the Good News. The children have been learning about who spread the Gospel and facts about each country, like national dress, flag, festivals, famous landmarks, patron saints, national dish and famous people from that country. Countries we have discussed so far are; Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Cyprus, Macedonia, Greece, Malta and Ethiopia. Crafts have included making telephones from paper cups and string, weaving, baking biscuits, digging for treasure in sand to learn about archaeology, and making paper people chains to represent how the Word was spread. Shona, June, Katy and I also learnt many things about the various countries too, whilst doing our research. Question can you name a sainted famous nobel peace prize winning Macedonian? ☆

Nativity rehearsals have started and our play will be performed in church on Sunday 21st December, we look forward to seeing you all.

Thanks to all the Junior Church team, Katy, Shona, June and Fiona and to all our children and families too, much appreciated your support and attendance.

Take Care!

Ros, Shona, June, Katy

☆ What We Did On Our Holiday - one of my favourite films, if you haven't seen it, it's well worth a watch.

☆ Did you guess the answer to the famous Macedonian question....it's Mother Theresa.

Kind Regards

Ros

JOB DESCRIPTION

Each week at the meetings of a local civic club, a different member was asked to give a brief statement about his job. When it was the turn of a Christian minister, he stood up and said :-

“I’m with a global enterprise. We have branches in every country of the world. We have representatives in nearly every government and boardroom on earth. We’re into motivation and behaviour alterations. We run hospitals, feeding stations, crisis pregnancy centres, universities, publishing houses and nursing homes. We care for our clients from birth to death. We are into life insurance and fire insurance. We perform spiritual heart transplants. Our original Organiser owns all the real estate on earth plus an assortment of galaxies and constellations, knows everything and lives everywhere. Our product is free for the asking. Our CEO was born in a hick town, worked as a carpenter, didn’t own a home, was misunderstood by his family, hated by his enemies, walked on water, was condemned to death without a trial, and arose from the dead – I talk with him every day.”

Church is one of the most misunderstood organisations on earth.



CROSSREACH Calendars 2026.

Last year we supported CROSSREACH, the Social Work section of the Church of Scotland, by purchasing some of the 2025 Calendars.

I hope that we can do the same in 2026.

The Wall Calendar is priced £5.50 and the Appointments Calendar £5.00.

I will put a sheet in the Hall at Coffee Time so that those interested can put their name.

Otherwise just let me know verbally.

Willie Beattie.



Who is never hungry at Christmas? The turkey - he's always stuffed!

Christmas is in my heart twelve months a year and thanks to credit cards, it's on my Visa card statement twelve months a year also.

What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas tree? A pineapple!

NO COST FUNDRAISING!

Over the last wee while, it has been apparent that Kilbarchan Parish Church has a lot of very generous members who have supported so many good causes.

At its meeting on 6th. November, the Kirk Session agreed that Kilbarchan Parish Church should become part of a fundraising scheme which raises money for good causes at no expense.

The scheme is called EASYFUNDRAISING (www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and it applies to online shopping. There are around 8000 brands which are part of the scheme -Morrisons, Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Iceland, M&S, John Lewis, Argos, Currys, Amazon and Trainline to name just a few.

Brands pay a commission when a sale is made on their web site from a customer who has come through the Easyfundraising web site. The scheme then passes on at least 50% of the commission to the cause.

Using Easyfundraising does not add to the cost of online shopping. The brand covers the cost of the donation, meaning it is 100% free to use.

We hope that members will support Kilbarchan Parish Church by registering as a supporter on the web site of Easyfundraising and using it when purchasing online.

Anyone who does not use online shopping, could ask family and friends who do, to support the Church.

Becoming part of Easyfundraising will not stop but rather complement the fundraising activities of the Church

Please contact Christine Erwin or Marjory Love if you would like further information about the scheme or how to use it to support the Church.



BENEVOLENT FUND

At this time of the year we donate some money to charitable causes from the Benevolent Fund .

At a recent Kirk Session meeting the following was agreed .

£100 to St Vincent's Hospice

£100 to Adam's House

£100 to Renfrewshire Foodbank

£100 to Young lives Vs Cancer .

In September the fund also helped with the cost of the Seniors afternoon tea .

We always keep some money in the fund in case it is needed for charitable causes

We thank the congregation for their continuing support of the special offerings at communion.

Alan Fulton Fund Treasurer



SAFEGUARDING

While implementing the new rules of the Disclosure Scotland Act, there is now a series of roles which now require membership of the PVG scheme. Taking this forward we require Panel members and elders visiting Care homes on Church business to join the scheme.

Joan MacKinnon has recently retired as a member of the Panel and I would like to express my thanks to her for her help and for giving time to attend various safeguarding trainings.

Alison Renfrew has volunteered to take up this role for which we are grateful. She has already had her PVG certificate through and is doing training in the near future. The Panel now comprises Alan Vaughan, Alison Renfrew and Elizabeth Dunn.

We are also in the process of ensuring that any Elder who visits a care home representing the Church will also go through the correct procedures.

We aim to ensure that Kilbarchan Parish Church will remain a safe place for all.

Elizabeth Dunn

MISSION TEAM

The Mission Team is delighted that our recent Harvest Soup Lunch was enjoyed by over 90 people and raised over £1200 (including Gift Aid) for Mary's Meals. A very big thank you to everyone involved in any way. We plan to hold another Soup Lunch in the Spring and have now received a donation of an extra 20 soup bowls to ensure that we can cater for the demand. It's great that this event has proved so popular and that those attending appreciate both the soup and the opportunity for chat.

We have arranged a family Christmas Film Show- **“A Muppet Christmas Carol” in the hall on Sunday 7th December at 2pm-all welcome.** This is a free event and drinks and snacks will be provided-come along and join us for this family favourite film.



KILBARCHAN PARISH CHURCH ECO GROUP

The Eco Group recently held a Coffee Morning to raise funds for Wateraid and raised £338 for this Charity who aim to provide clean water for everyone everywhere. Many thanks to everyone who supported this event.

Later that same afternoon, we joined forces with Kilbarchan Smile for our twice yearly Litterpick and were delighted that a total of 28 people (including 8 children) came along to support this event. Together we collected 15 bags of rubbish and enjoyed tea, coffee and cakes in the hall afterwards. It was particularly heartening that there were a number of enthusiastic “non church” volunteers who all seemed to enjoy themselves. The next Litterpick will be in the Spring.

The Eco Group, together with the Green Champions, plan to decorate an Eco Christmas tree for the **Christmas Tree Festival on Friday 5th December and will also have a “Green Christmas” table at the Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th December.** Donations of “pre-loved“ Christmas decorations would be very much appreciated and there will be a basket at the front door of the church on the next couple of Sundays to collect them.

Your continued support is very much appreciated
The Mission Team and Eco Group

JIGSAW CHALLENGE

Hello everyone

I am sending you this email to let you know where we are with the fundraising and to thank you all again for your efforts.

Of course the £11K we were aiming for was never enough but with the virtual gift efforts at Christmas last year, other donations and fundraising efforts + the Jigsaw project, we now have £11.9K in the Houston and Killellan account, £281.92 sitting with 121 George Street and £6976 which has gone direct to Keith and Ida. A total of almost £20K. Three other churches are about to pay their jigsaw money into the account - so amazing!

How excellent that with so many churches working together we have raised enough for the lorry - and if money from the rest of the jigsaws arrives (15 still out there) there will be a fund for road tax, insurance and repairs.

Could you please let your congregations know where we are just now - and of course thank them for their generosity.

We also have a grant from Clyde presbytery that will pay the fees for transferring money overseas, and the grant also paid for the jigsaws and boards. Again thank you - I'll send a final email once we think that all the jigsaw money has been collected - smaller congregations will be finding it harder I know but that's fine. No rush.

Best wishes to you all and thanks for collaborating.

Caroline Morrison

.....
I'd like to add my personal thanks to that of Caroline's to our congregation for supporting this fundraising initiative.

Graham McKay Presbytery Elder





The Diary of a Bible

The Diary of a Bible

- **JANUARY:** A busy time for me. Most of the family decided to read me through this year. They kept me busy for the first two weeks, but they have forgotten me now.
- **FEBRUARY:** Clean-up time. I was dusted yesterday and put in my place. My owner did use me for a few minutes last week. He had been in an argument and was looking up some references to prove he was right.
- **MARCH:** Had a busy day first of the month. My owner was elected president of the PTA & used me to prepare a speech.
- **APRIL:** Grandpa visited us this month. He kept me on his lap for an hour reading I Cor 13. He seems to think more of me than do some people in my own household.
- **MAY:** I have a few green stains on my pages. Some spring flowers were pressed in my pages.
- **JUNE:** I look like a scrapbook. They have stuffed me full of newspaper clippings - one of the girls was married.
- **JULY:** They put me in a suitcase today. I guess we are off on vacation. I wish I could stay home; I know I'll be closed up in this thing for at least two weeks.
- **AUGUST:** Still in the suitcase.
- **SEPTEMBER:** Back home at last and in my old familiar place. I have a lot of company. Two women's magazines and four comic books are stacked on top of me. I wish I could be read as much as they are.
- **OCTOBER:** They read me a little bit today. One of them is very sick. Right now I am sitting in the centre of the coffee table. I think the Pastor is coming by for a visit.
- **NOVEMBER:** Back in my old place. Somebody asked today if I were a scrapbook.
- **DECEMBER:** The family is busy getting ready for the festive season. I guess I'll be covered up under wrapping paper & packages again ... just as I am every Christmas.

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

The snow came drifting gently down
When all was quiet and still
The village clock chimed out the hour
This season of goodwill.
And in the distance music notes
Many voices singing
Sacred hymns and Christmas carols
Church bells started ringing.

The presents tied and gaily wrapped
Are placed beneath the tree
Which has been dressed in tinselled best
For this festivity
Tomorrow will be Christmas Day
Excitement, noise and cheer
And friends and family will come
In a happy atmosphere.

But for tonight I'm lost in thought
Just gazing at the snow
Thinking of another Christmas
Of many years ago
A young girl and her new-born Son
A stable had to share
With sheep and shepherds, ox and ass
And angels everywhere.

KATHLEEN GILLUM.

NEW YEAR

Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun,
A bit o' work and a bit o' fun;
Give us all, in the struggle and splutter,
Our daily bread and a bit o' butter.

Give us our health our keep to make,
And a bit to spare for poor folks' sake;
Give us sense, for we're some of us
duffers,
An' a heart to fee! for all that suffers.

Give us, too, o. bit o' a song,
An' a tale an' a book to help us along;
An' give us our share o' sorrow's lesson
That we may prove how grief's a
blessin'.

Give us, Lord, a chance to be
Our gradely best, brave wise and free,
Our gradely best for oursels and others
Till all men learn to live as brothers.

May every day of this New Year
From January to December,
Bring you, as you journey on,
Something lovely to remember.
A very Happy New Year to you!



THE HILL ORGAN



The Hill organ now in its' new home in
in the Marienkirche in Prenzlau, Germany.



PARISH REGISTER



Certificate of Transference – New Member

Mr John Sharp
Mrs Lydia Sharp
Mr Stuart Little
Mrs Margaret Little
Miss Joy Mcleod
Mrs Rosemary Taylor

DEATHS

Kilbarchan

Alan Croucher	(Date of death – 14th September)
Robert Logan	(Date of death – 20th October)
Esther Knox	(Date of death – 30th October)
Malcolm Campbell	(Date of death – 3rd November)

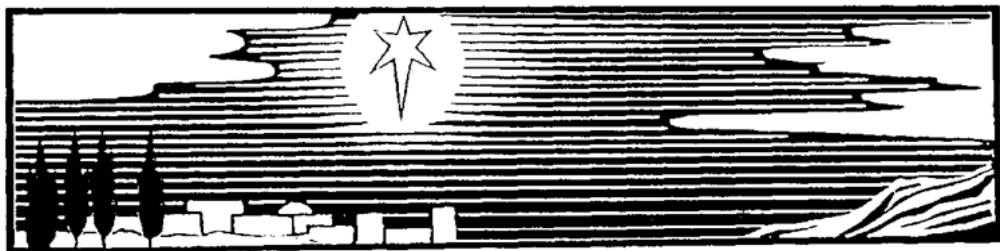
Howwood

Sybil Miller	(Date of death – 23rd September)
--------------	----------------------------------

Please also note Anne Logan died in June

ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 317 and 17 Adherents. Please remember to notify Fulton Dunn, the roll keeper, of any changes to address, phone number or email in order to maintain up to date information. Contact details phone 01505704502 or email KPC.rollkeeper@gmail.com



USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister - Rev Stephen Smith - 01505 702621

Session Clerk - Mrs Christine Erwin - 01505 703056

Ass. Session Clerk - Miss Helen Robertson - 01505 325382

WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Sunday 30th November	11.15am 3.00pm	Morning Worship Service of Remembrance for loved ones
Sunday 7th December	11.15am	Morning Worship (Gift service in support of Salvation Army Toy Appeal) Christmas Songs of Praise
Saturday 13th December	4 – 6pm	Messy Church (Christingle)
Sunday 14th December	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 21st December	11.15am 6.30pm	Children's Nativity service Service of lessons and Carols
Wednesday 24th December	4pm	Joint all age worship service Howwood Church
Thursday 25th December	10.30am	Joint all age worship service Kilbarchan Church
Sunday 28th December	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Rev Alistair Shaw
Sunday 4th January	11.15am	Morning Worship and Holy Communion
Sunday 11th January	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 18th January	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 25th January	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 1st February	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 8th February	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 15th February	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 22nd February	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday 1st March	11.15am	Morning Worship

